

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
Request for Information
RFx 3150000331
Smart No. 1450-16-R-RFIN-00001
Sea-Bird Electronics 25plus Sealogger CTD

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) anticipates purchasing the item listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase shall follow the procedures outlined below.

Sole Source Criteria

1. Where the compatibility of equipment, accessories, or replacement part is paramount consideration (and manufacturer is the sole supplier).
2. Where a sole supplier's item is needed for trial use or testing.
3. Where a sole supplier's item is to be required when no other item will service the needs of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

Schedule

Task	Date
First Advertisement Date	January 6, 2016
Second Advertisement Date	January 13, 2016
Response Deadline from Objectors	January 21, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. Central Time
Notice of Award/No Award Posted	Not before January 22, 2016

Project Details

- 1. Describe the commodity that the agency is seeking to procure:**
The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) seeks to purchase one (1) Sea-Bird 25plus Sealogger CTD (hereinafter "25plus Sealogger CTD"). The 25plus Sealogger CTD is an essential electronic profiler for coastal and deep-water deployments. The 25plus Sealogger CTD is necessary to digitally record water quality and convert the recorded information into a format that is compatible with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission SEAMAP program.
- 2. Explain why the commodity is the only one that can meet the needs of the agency:**
The 25plus Sealogger CTD is an essential electronic profiler for coastal and deep-water deployments. It provides real-time observation systems which obtain critical information for the study of ecosystems, water quality, and fisheries, as well as data for long-term climate change studies. The 25plus Sealogger CTD

supports numerous auxiliary sensors and can accommodate a wide variety of instruments for nearly any type of measurement. The 25plus Sealogger CTD has the capability to:

- Measure temperature, PH, O₂ in H₂O, salinity, and conductivity at different depths
- Record and transmit the information in real time. Sensors can go out on the data logger but since the information for this data logger can be downloaded, MDMR can pull up the data logger if a sensor is out, thus saving valuable time and resources. Also, physical parameters can be monitored for harmful and inconsistent conditions in a timely manner.
- Record the information and make it available for download
- Calibrate as it is lowered to the seafloor. The 25 plus Sealogger CTD is the only sealogger that has this capability while collecting all required data.
- The Gulf Coast Research Lab (hereinafter “GCRL”) and Stennis Space Center (hereinafter “Stennis”) use the 25plus Sealogger CTD and Mississippi statute Miss. Code Ann. § 49-15-15(1)(m) requires that MDMR should work with GCRL to the fullest extent possible.

It is a vital piece of equipment for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (hereinafter “NFWF”) grant to assess reef fish in Coastal Mississippi. The grant specifies water quality and environmental samples will be taken in conjunction with all vertical line sets, minimally to assess surface, mid-water and bottom water temperature, salinity and dissolved oxygen conditions. Additionally, highly-resolved (0.25 m) vertical profiles of water temperature, salinity, density, dissolved oxygen and turbidity/clarity will be obtained from select stations. The CTD is used in surrounding Gulf States. The CTD is necessary to record water quality and put it in a format that is compatible with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission SEAMAP Program. All Gulf States conduct their water quality analysis with the 25plus Sealogger CTD and in order for all NFWF databases to be scientifically comparable it is essential this particular unit be purchased.

3. Explain why the source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity:

The Sea-Bird 25plus Data Logger is a research-quality CTD profiling system for coastal, estuarine, and budget-minded deep-water deployments. The battery-powered 25plus records data in memory, eliminating the need for a large vessel, electro-mechanical sea cable, and on-board computer. The 25plus can also transmit data in real-time. This company is the manufacturer of the Sea-Bird 25plus Sealogger CTD with no distributors in the continental United States.

4. Explain why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable:

The CTD is a high resolution water column profiler that measures water parameters as it travels through the water. As with any data sonde used in the

marine environment it must be built to perform under the unique dynamic conditions found in our coastal waters. With the governmental discount, it makes this unique piece of equipment a reasonable expenditure for the MDMR, which cannot be compared with any other product.

5. Describe the efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity:

Through research on the Internet and speaking to the manufacturer, MDMR was able to negotiate best pricing for the 25plus Sealogger CTD. All applicable discounts were explored and applied.

Procedures for Objecting to Sole Source Procurement

Any person or entity that objects and proposes that the Sea-Bird Electronics 25plus Sealogger CTD is not a sole source commodity and can be provided by another person or entity may submit a written objection to: Kacey Williams, Chief Financial Officer

Objectors should use the Vendor Form found at:

<http://www.dfa.state.ms.us/Purchasing/documents/ObjectiontoSoleSourceDetermination.pdf>.

The objection may be submitted by hand delivery, mailed to the MDMR, or emailed with the subject line reading, "Sole Source Objection". In the Objection the following information shall be included:

- Vendor Form
- Objector Name
- Contact Name (if different from objector name)
- Phone Number
- Address
- Email Address
- Company Website URL, if applicable
- A detailed explanation of why the Sea-Bird Electronics 25plus Sealogger CTD is not a sole-source commodity, including why the objector believes that another entity can provide the commodity required by the MDMR, with supporting documentation, if available.

Objections will be accepted at any time prior to Thursday, **January 21, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.** (Central Time). Objections may be submitted by hand delivery or mail to Kacey Williams, Chief Financial Officer, MDMR, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530, or through email at: kacey.williams@dmr.ms.gov. MDMR WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS IN THE DELIVERY OF OBJECTIONS. It is solely the responsibility of the Objector that the objection reaches MDMR on time. Objections received after the deadline or that lack all required information will be rejected. MDMR reserves the right to inspect Objector's commodity for comparison purposes.

If after review of the submitted objections, MDMR determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then MDMR will withdraw the sole source request and submit the procurement of the commodity to an advertised competitive bid or selection process.

If MDMR determines after review that there is only one source for the required commodity, then MDMR will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board for approval to purchase.

If you have any questions concerning the information above or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Kacey.Williams@dmr.ms.gov.

Attachment A: Vendor Correspondence